(c) The expenditure incurred on surveys and exploratory drilling during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (upto Jan. 1994. i.e. for 10 months).
Surveys	39.96	47.86	246.02	31.81
Exploratory	79.02			99.24
TOTAL	126.88	285.98		131.05

(d) ONG Corporation Ltd. is already commercially exploiting oil and gas from different fields in Gujarat for over thirty years.

Selling Up an Oil Refinery at Paradeep in Orissa

7807. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up an oil refinery at Paradeep in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard with a view to expediting the establishment oil refinery at Paradeep; and

(c) the reasons for the inordinate delay in the establishment of that oil refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Government have decided, in principle, to set up a 6 MMTPA refinery as joint venture on Eastern India with IOC as a partner with 26% equity. As per the decision, IOC is to select the joint venture partner and then come to Government for approval. A Letter of Intent has also been issued to M/s Ashok Leyland-Goteo on 14.8.92 for selling up of a refinery of 6 MMTPA capacity in Paradeep in Orissa.

Indo-Iranian Pipeline Project

7808. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken to implement Indo-Iranian pipeline project to supply natural gas to India; and

(b) what are the places in India which will be benefited by this Project with the supply of natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The modalities of selecting an Agency to carry out the pre-feasibility study of the Iran-India gas pipeline are being worked out.

(b) These details will be decided after the feasibility of the pipeline is established.

Expansion of Refineries

7809. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the expansion of some existing oil refineries in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the refineries identified for expansion during 8th and 9th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) At present expansion/debottlenecking of refineries at Digboi, Cochin and Bongaigaon are at advanced stages of implementaiton. The expansion of Koyali and Visakh Refineries are under process for investment approvals etc.